

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION
CORPORATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

BERNARD L. MADOFF INVESTMENT
SECURITIES LLC,

Defendant.

In re:

BERNARD L. MADOFF,

Debtor.

Adv. Pro. No. 08-1789 (SMB)

SIPA Liquidation

(Substantively Consolidated)

**APPLICATION OF RITTER SCHIERSCHER RECHTSANWALTE AS SPECIAL
COUNSEL TO THE TRUSTEE FOR ALLOWANCE OF INTERIM COMPENSATION
FOR SERVICES RENDERED FROM DECEMBER 1, 2017 THROUGH MARCH 31,
2018 AND FOR RELEASE OF A PORTION OF FEES HELD BACK**

Michael Ritter, together with other members and associates at the law firm of Ritter Schierscher Rechtsanwälte¹ (“Ritter”), special counsel for Irving H. Picard (the “Trustee”), trustee for the liquidation of the business of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC (“BLMIS”) under the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970, 15 U.S.C. §§ 78aaa *et seq.* (“SIPA”), and Bernard L. Madoff, submits this Application for interim compensation of legal fees in the amount of \$867.45 (of which 20% is to be deferred until the conclusion of the liquidation period) for the period from December 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018 (the “Compensation Period”), and the release of \$3,229.45 (which represents a portion of fees held back). In support of the Application, Ritter respectfully submits as follows:

¹ Formerly known as Ritter & Ritter Advokatur.

I. BACKGROUND

1. On December 15, 2008, Judge Stanton of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, upon application filed on the same date by the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (“SIPC”), entered an order calling for the liquidation of BLMIS in accordance with SIPA and appointing the Trustee as BLMIS’s trustee.

2. BLMIS’s liquidation proceeding was removed to this Court pursuant to SIPA § 78eee(b)(4), and, pursuant to SIPA § 78fff(b), is being conducted as though it were a case under chapters 1, 3, and 5 and subchapters I and II of chapter 7 of title 11 of the United States Code.

3. On January 31, 2013, this Court entered an order approving the Trustee’s motion to retain Ritter as special counsel to the Trustee in all matters pertaining to Lichtenstein.

4. The Trustee’s motion to retain Ritter established a fee arrangement pursuant to which Ritter agreed to a fee reduction in the amount of 10% as well as an additional holdback of fees in the amount of 20% (“Holdback”).

II. SERVICES RENDERED BY RITTER

5. The legal services performed by Ritter on behalf of the Trustee during the time period covered by this Application are as follows:

6. Ritter continued to advise the Trustee in BLMIS-related proceedings involving Lichtenstein-domiciled defendants.

7. Ritter also continued to advise the Trustee on issues arising under Lichtenstein law.

III. COMPENSATION REQUESTED

8. The Application demonstrates how Ritter has both added value to BLMIS’s estate and advanced BLMIS’s liquidation proceeding.

9. Ritter has been mindful of the need to avoid undue legal fees in this case and has taken all reasonable steps to provide cost-effective representation while rendering services with the highest degree of skill and professionalism.

10. From December 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018, Ritter provided a total of 1.8 hours of legal services to the Trustee in this case. Prior to the 10% discount, the total amount of fees incurred in this time period was \$963.83 and the total blended rate for professional services was \$535.46/hour. After the 10% discount, the total amount of fees incurred is \$867.45 and the total blended rate is \$481.91/hour. Ritter has agreed to a further holdback of 20% of its fees in the amount of \$173.49 resulting in the present request for compensation in the amount of \$693.96.

11. A breakdown of the total number of hours performed by each Ritter timekeeper is provided in **Exhibit A** attached hereto.

IV. RELEASE OF THE HOLDBACK

12. The Trustee's motion to retain Ritter established a Holdback fee arrangement in which 20% of the approved compensation is deferred until further order of the Court.

13. For the prior and current compensation periods, the amount of the Holdback for Ritter's fees is \$6,458.91. Ritter seeks a release of the Holdback in the amount of \$3,229.45 upon the support of SIPC.

14. SIPC has advised Ritter that it will file a recommendation in support of the fees and expenses in this Application and the release of the Holdback in the amount of \$3,229.45 for Ritter.

15. Hence, Ritter respectfully requests that this Court authorize the release of the Holdback payment to Ritter in the amount of \$3,229.45, as supported by SIPC.

V. GENERAL MATTERS

16. All of the professional services for which compensation is requested herein were performed by Ritter for and on behalf of the Trustee, and not on behalf of any other person or entity.

17. No agreement or understanding exists between Ritter and any other person for sharing compensation received in connection with this case, nor has any other person or entity agreed to provide Ritter with compensation for the legal services described herein.

18. SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(A) provides in pertinent part that, upon appropriate application and after a hearing, “[t]he court shall grant reasonable compensation for services rendered and reimbursement for proper costs and expenses incurred . . . by a trustee, and by the attorney for such a trustee.” SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(C) specifically establishes SIPC’s role in connection with applications for compensation and the consideration the Court should give to SIPC’s recommendation concerning fees, providing as follows:

In any case in which such allowances are to be paid by SIPC without reasonable expectation of recoupment thereof as provided in this chapter and there is no difference between the amounts requested and the amounts recommended by SIPC, the court shall award the amounts recommended by SIPC. In determining the amount of allowances in all other cases, the court shall give due consideration to the nature, extent, and value of the services rendered, and shall place considerable reliance on the recommendation of SIPC.

SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(C).

19. To the extent the general estate is insufficient to pay such allowances as an expense of administration, SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(E) requires SIPC to advance the funds necessary to pay the compensation of Ritter. *See* also SIPA § 78fff-3(b)(2).

20. At this time, the Trustee has determined that he has no reasonable expectation that the general estate will be sufficient to make a distribution to general creditors or pay administrative expenses. SIPC has advised the Trustee that it concurs with this determination.

Accordingly, any fees and expenses allowed by this Court will be paid from advances by SIPC without any reasonable expectation by SIPC of recoupment thereof.

21. Therefore, with respect to this Application, Ritter requests that, consistent with SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(C), the Court “shall award the amounts recommended by SIPC.” *See McGraw v. Betz (In re Bell & Beckwith)*, 112 B.R. 876 (Bankr. N.D. Ohio 1990). Ritter expects that SIPC’s recommendation in support of the relief sought by this Application will be filed with this Court separately.

WHEREFORE, Ritter respectfully requests that this Court enter an Order:

- a. Granting this Application; and
- b. Allowing and awarding \$867.45, of which \$693.96 is to be paid currently and \$173.49 is to be held back through the conclusion of the liquidation period or until further order of the Court, as an interim payment for professional services rendered by Ritter to the Trustee from December 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018; and
- c. Releasing \$3,229.45 to Ritter from the Holdback for prior and current compensation periods; and
- d. Granting Ritter such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 13, 2018

Ritter Schierscher Rechtsanwälte

By: s/ Michael Ritter

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EXHIBIT A

**SUMMARY OF INTERIM FEE APPLICATION
OF RITTER SCHIERSCHER RECHTSANWALTE FOR SERVICES RENDERED
FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1, 2017 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2018**

	HOURLY RATE	TOTAL HOURS BILLED	TOTAL COMPENSATION
Michael Ritter	\$535.46	1.8	\$963.83
Total:	\$535.46	1.8	\$963.83
Total minus 10% Discount	\$481.91		\$867.45
Total Net of 20% Holdback:			\$693.96
Holdback for Prior and Current Compensation Periods			\$6,458.91
Release of the Holdback			\$3,229.45
Total Compensation to be Paid			\$3,923.41